

Dear Chairman DeFronzo, Chairman Guerrero, Ranking Member Boucher and Ranking Member Scribner and other distinguished members of the Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Testimony of SB 434 B ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISPOSITION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OF LAND ORIGINALLY ACQUIRED FOR THE "SUPER 7" HIGHWAY.***

The issue of Super 7 Highway from Norwalk to the Danbury line is a 50 year old controversy that has been shelved by the state at this time for the following reasons.

1. 40% of the land needed for the construction of the highway is not currently owned by the state and would need to be acquired before any movement could take place.
 - a. To have to buy this additional land at this time is not a prudent decision for the State Government to make, and would clearly bring about a huge outcry from the citizens of this great state about waste.
2. The construction of this highway would require building across one of the largest wetlands in our state. This will not only have huge financial implications, but is truly a environmental risk that I am unwilling to take with my downstate neighbors.
3. A Federal environment impact statement would be required before construction could occur, and most feel that it would never receive approval, again wasting money in the wrong places.
4. The cost of building a 20 mile long and 100 foot high fly over highway would be unaffordable given the new national roadway engineering requirements.
5. Environment groups and local town opposition (of which I am clearly one additional voice) from the towns of Ridgefield, Redding, Wilton and parts of many surrounding towns would keep it in the courts for decades.

It would therefore make sense to give our State' DOT more flexibility in the use or disposition of this land, which has been restricted so many years ago by providing enabling language to Section 1. Section 13a-85b of the general statute DOT that they may sell or use this land according to the times or needs of the state at some future date. It is vital that we do not tie the hands of our government during these difficult times when change is quickly occurring on many different fronts.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my testimony.

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